

1 KAUFMAN DOLOWICH & VOLUCK LLP  
2 ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, ESQ., SBN 92374  
3 ewilliams@kdylaw.com  
4 KATHERINE S. CATLOS, ESQ., SBN 184227  
5 kcatlos@kdylaw.com  
6 URSULA D. TAMHANE, ESQ., SBN 240491  
7 utamhane@kdylaw.com

351 California Street, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Telephone: (415) 402-0059  
Facsimile: (415) 402-0679

8 Attorneys for Respondent MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-MARCUS GARVEY SQUARE COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JR., U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

E-FILING

ORIGINAL  
FILED

AUG 27 2007

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 HO RIM KAM,

13 Petitioner,

14 vs.

15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-MARCUS  
16 GARVEY SQUARE COOPERATIVE  
17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

18 Respondent.

C 07 Case No.: 4414

19 NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION  
20 UNDER 28 USC §1441(b)  
21 (FEDERAL QUESTION)

SBA

22 TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:

23 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT RESPONDENT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-  
24 MARCUS GARVEY SQUARE COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS hereby removes to  
25 this Court the State Court action described below.

26 1. On August 6, 2007, an action, specifically a Petition and Application for Issuance of  
27 Peremptory Writ of Mandamus was commenced in the Superior Court of the State of California  
28 in and for the County of San Francisco, entitled HO RIM KAM VS. MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
JR.-MARCUS GARVEY SQUARE COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, as Case  
Number CPF-07-507493 (hereto as Exhibit 1).

1       2. The first date upon which Respondent received a copy of said Petition and Application  
2 for Issuance of Peremptory Writ of Mandamus was on August 8, 2007. (A copy of the Proof of  
3 Service by hand delivery is attached hereto as Exhibit 2)

4       3. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28  
5 U.S.C. §1331, and is one which may be removed to this Court by Respondent pursuant to the  
6 provisions of 28 U.S.C. §1441(b) in that it arises under the United States Housing Act of 1937,  
7 42 USC §1437 *et. seq.* and its implementing regulations, including but not limited to: 24 CFR,  
8 part 5 (General HUD Program Requirements), 24 CFR, part 17 (Administrative Claims per  
9 Federal Tort Claims Act); and 24 CFR, part 28 (Fraud). Petitioner's claim is also one that  
10 technically implicates 5 U.S.C. §706 and arguably the Fifth Amendment right to due process  
11 contained in the United States Constitution.

12       4. The instant Petition for Peremptory Writ of Mandamus protests actions taken by the  
13 Federal Government. Specifically, Petitioner has premised his claim for relief on the United  
14 States Department of Housing and Urban Development's purported incorrect conclusion that  
15 Petitioner had fraudulently concealed his Illinois home on multiple occasions in order to receive  
16 Section 8 housing subsidies. Because Petitioner, on multiple occasions, misrepresented his  
17 assets on his HUD Form 50059s, HUD concluded that he owed the federal government  
18 additional rent ("carrying charges"). Respondent's By-laws provide for automatic removal of a  
19 *Board member* should the Petitioner fall behind in rent by 30 days. In addition, the By-laws call  
20 for removal of an *Officer* by a vote of the Board of Directors. Since HUD concluded that  
21 Petitioner was behind in rent by 30 days, he was automatically removed as a Director, and  
22 subsequently removed as Treasurer by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Thus, the issue  
23 posed by the Petition, whether Petitioner can properly be a member (or even a Treasurer) on the  
24 Board of Directors, implicates federal law and impugns actions taken by HUD.

25       5. The relief sought also creates a substantial issue of federal law. Petitioner has  
26 requested that the Court determine whether Petitioner properly reported his income per federal  
27 housing laws in order to be eligible for Section 8 housing subsidies and hence, not be in arrears  
28 of rent. HUD concluded that he had not properly reported his income. Petitioner essentially  
requests that the Court issue an order reversing HUD's conclusion regarding his automatic

1 removal (per the By-laws) from the Board of Directors and compelling his reinstatement to the  
 2 Board of Directors. Consequently, Petitioner's relief is dependent upon interpretation of federal  
 3 laws regarding eligibility, recertification of, and verification of income for Section 8 recipients.

4 6. In short, federal question jurisdiction is proper because the Federal Government has a  
 5 strong interest in ensuring persons who have fraudulently reported assets in order to obtain  
 6 federal subsidies not be a member of a Boards of Directors (with decision-making powers) over  
 7 housing projects that the Federal Government subsidizes.

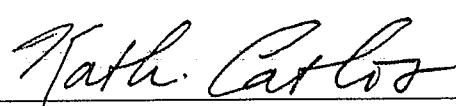
8 7. Although HUD is curiously not a named respondent in this matter, Petitioner has  
 9 imputed HUD's conduct to Respondent, thus warranting federal court jurisdiction. The  
 10 averments in the Petition and its supporting papers show that the relevant By-laws which govern  
 11 the conduct of the project and the Board of Directors automatically expel Petitioner from the  
 12 Board due to his own conduct in contravention of HUD guidelines regarding  
 13 eligibility/verification of Section 8 recipients per federal housing laws. The gravamen of  
 14 Petitioner's Petition is that HUD was wrong and that his removal from the Board was essentially  
 15 unconstitutional; violated his due process rights; and/or arbitrary, capricious, or was an abuse of  
 16 HUD's discretion, and hence of no validity. It is therefore apparent that this controversy  
 17 concerns the validity of HUD's actions, thus conferring this Court with federal question  
 18 jurisdiction.

19 8. At this time, there are no other Defendants or Respondents other than the present  
 20 Respondent MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-MARCUS GARVEY SQUARE COOPERATIVE  
 21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

22 Respectfully submitted,

23 DATED: August 27, 2007

24 KAUFMAN DOLOWICH & VOLUCK LLP

25   
 26 Katherine S. Catlos, Esq.  
 27 Attorneys for Respondent MARTIN LUTHER  
 28 KING, JR.-MARCUS GARVEY SQUARE  
 COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS